

JAN 26 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS AND PROCEDURES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that reports to the
2 legislature of studies and audits conducted by the executive
3 departments and agencies, and by the legislative reference
4 bureau or auditor, including annual reports, may receive no
5 follow-up by the legislature, depending on the significance and
6 importance of any facts, findings, and recommendations. If a
7 report goes without further consideration by the legislature,
8 the purpose of the report in the first instance is for naught.

9 The purpose of this Act is to enact procedures for the
10 filing and consideration of reports of studies and audits
11 conducted by the executive departments and agencies, and by the
12 legislative reference bureau or auditor, including annual
13 reports.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
15 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
16 as follows:

17 "PART . HEARINGS ON REPORTS



1 §21- **Procedures for consideration of reports.** (a)
2 Reports to the legislature of studies and audits conducted by:
3 (1) The executive departments and agencies;
4 (2) The auditor; or
5 (3) The legislative reference bureau,
6 that are requested by a resolution or required by statute or by
7 an Act, including an annual report, shall be submitted, at a
8 minimum, to the clerk of each house, to the president of the
9 senate and speaker of the house of representatives, and to the
10 chair of the applicable subject matter committee of each house.

11 (b) The respective chairs of the committees to whom a
12 report is submitted under subsection (a) shall conduct a public
13 hearing or informational briefing on the report during the
14 legislative session or during the legislative interim in which
15 the report is submitted within one year of receipt. Waivers for
16 a public hearing or briefing may be granted by the president of
17 the senate or the speaker of the house of representatives, as
18 appropriate; provided that the reasons for granting any waiver
19 shall be posted on the legislature's website and publicly
20 noticed at the capitol.

21 §21- **Applicability; reports excluded.** This part shall
22 not apply to annual reports or reports of a routine nature as



1 prepared by executive departments, boards, or agencies; provided
2 that the chair of any committee shall not be precluded from
3 holding a public hearing or informational briefing on a report."

4 SECTION 3. Chapter 21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by designating sections 21-1 to 21-19 as follows:

6 "PART I. INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEES"

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: *Anna Mercedes Kim*

[Signature]
Michelle D. Sidani

Will Iyuo
Guy L. Hoan
Norman Sakamoto
Russell Kohler
as S.T. Li

Report Title:

Legislative Hearings; Studies and Reports

Description:

Requires any report of a study or an audit made by an executive department or agency, and by the legislative reference bureau or auditor, to be submitted to the clerk of each house, senate president, speaker of the house, and chairs of the appropriate subject matter committee of each house. Requires a public hearing or informational briefing, except if waived by the president of the senate. Excludes certain annual or routine reports.

